

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No : 10/669,457
Applicant : Gilman
Filed : September 25, 2003
Title : Refrigerator Shelf Retainer Assembly

TC/A.U. : 3637
Examiner : J. Nelson

Docket No. : GIL001-101
Customer No.: 27238

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION SUBMITTED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.131

Sir:

I, Everett G. Diederiks, Jr., am the patent attorney handling the above-identified U.S. patent application entitled "Refrigerator Shelf Retainer Assembly" which was filed on September 25, 2003. As set forth on the enclosed documentation, the invention was conceived at least as early as May 8, 2001 (see attached invention disclosure no. 2001-18). The present invention is owned by Maytag Corporation and was actually reduced to practice when a prototype of the invention was built. Evidence of this actual reduction to practice can be found in the enclosed photographs illustrating a refrigerator shelf incorporating a retaining assembly constructed in accordance with the present invention. The attached invention disclosure materials indicate a "built" date of May 29, 2001. In any case, it is believed that the enclosed documents clearly show a conception and

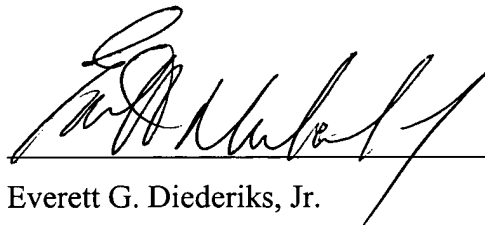
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reduction to practice of the invention. To further verify these ascertains, all of these documents were received by me on June 26, 2001 on June 26, 2001.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under *section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code* and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: _____

4/5/06


Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.



DISCLOSURE OF IDEA

CONFIDENTIAL

MAYTAG

ORIGINATED AT Galesburg, IL
DISCLOSURE NO. 2001-18

TITLE OF IDEA AUTOMATIC SNUGGER

2. NAME(S) OF PERSON(S) MAKING DISCLOSURE (Printed or typed.)

Barry Gilman

3. DATE OF CONCEPTION OF IDEA (Identify and attach any supporting documents.)

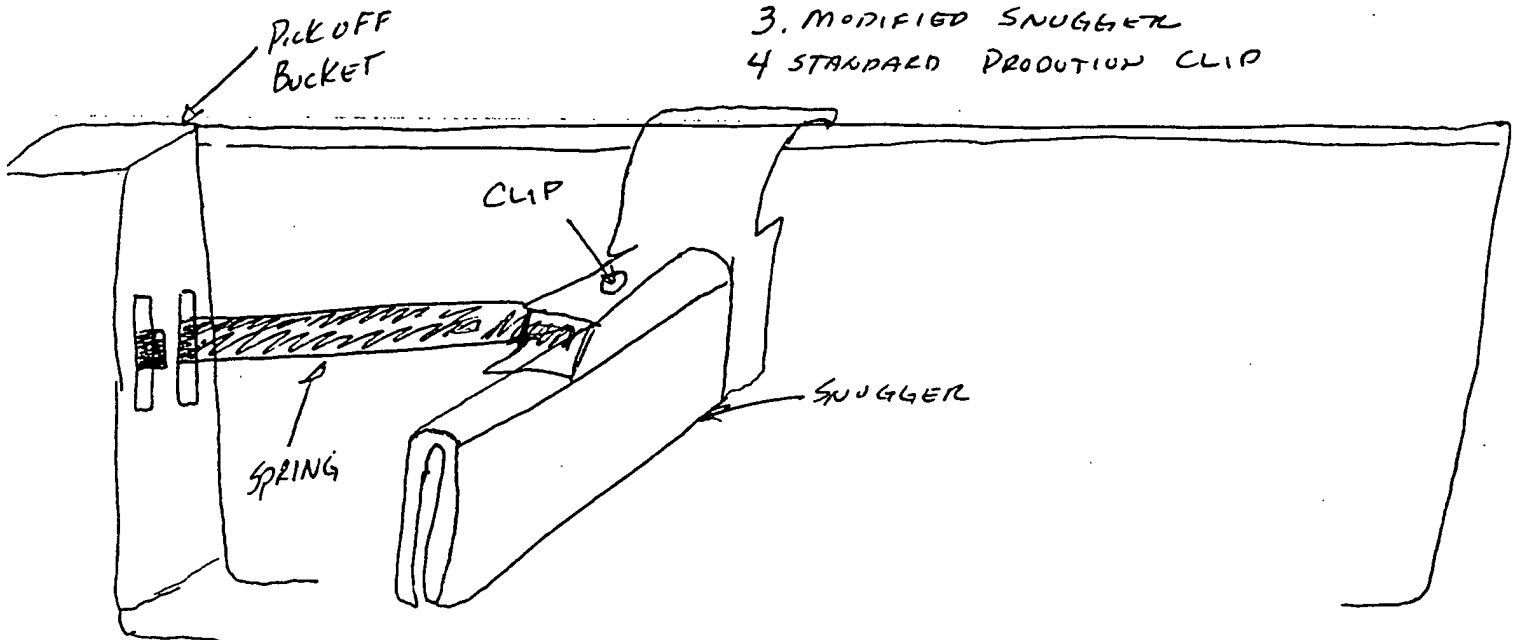
5/29/01 BUILD DATE / CONCEPTION DATE
5/08/01

4. OBJECT AND DESCRIPTION OF IDEA (Identify and attach any additional information which may be helpful in understanding and evaluating the idea including any earlier written description.)

THE OBJECT OF THE SNUGGER IS TO STOP MOVEMENT OF ITEMS IN THE PICK OFF BUCKETS IN THE TOP MOUNT AND SIDE BY SIDE REFRIGERATORS, BY HOLDING PRESSURE ON WHATEVER ITEM ARE IN THE PICK OFF BUCKETS

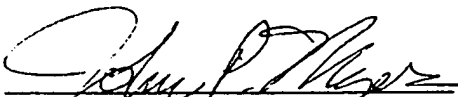
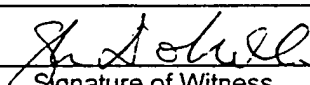
5. DRAWING OR DIAGRAM (Identify and attach any prior drawings including the earliest drawing or sketch.)

1. STANDARD PICKOFF BUCKET
2. A PRECISION SPRING MP060.6
3. MODIFIED SNUGGER
4. STANDARD PRODUCTION CLIP

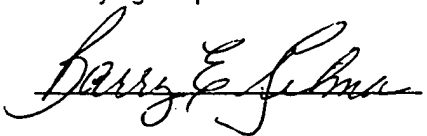


6. **PRIOR ART** (Identify any products, patents and publications of which you are aware that are related to the idea and prior to your conception.)
7. **USE OF IDEA** (Identify product and/or development project to which the idea relates.)
REFRIGERATION
8. **DISCLOSURE TO OTHERS** (Identify any disclosure of the idea to the public or to personnel outside of Maytag Corporation.)
NONE
9. **PRODUCTION USE** (Provide date of production or release for production of product including the idea, if any.)
10. **WITNESSES** (Persons to whom the idea has been disclosed, who understand it, and have read the disclosure.)

EXPLAINED TO AND UNDERSTOOD BY ME:

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
|  | <u>05/30/01</u> | <u>05/31/01</u> | <u>JOHN P. MYERS</u> |
| <u>SLAV DOKOLASUT</u> | <u>5/30/01</u> | <u>5/31/01</u> |  |
| Name of Witness (Printed or Typed) | Date of First Disclosure | Date of Signature | Signature of Witness |

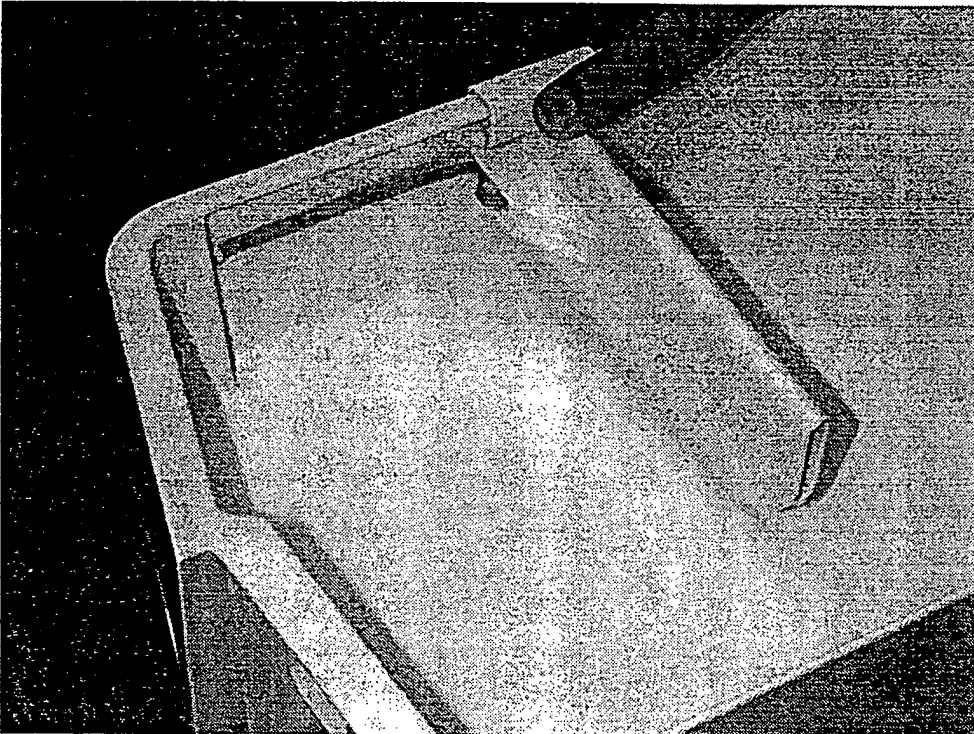
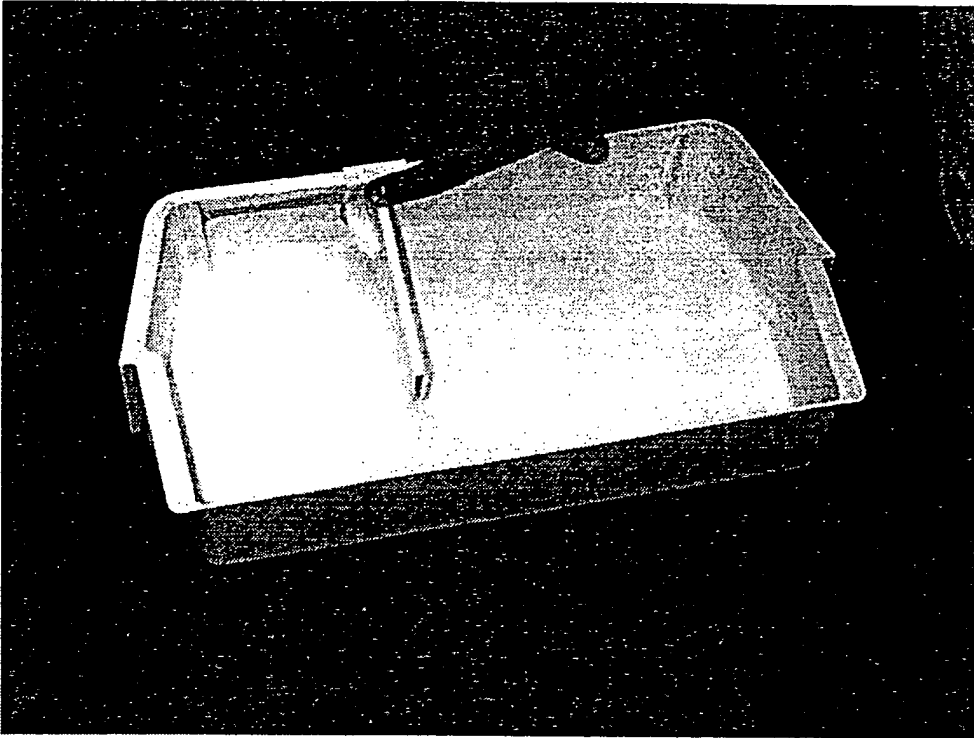
11. **SIGNATURE(S) OF PERSON(S) MAKING DISCLOSURE**
I (we) hereby agree that the above-disclosed invention was conceived by me (us) and that it is assignable to Maytag Corporation.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
|  | <u>5/31/01</u> |
| _____ | _____ |
| Signature | Date of Signature |

Noted by Vice President, R & D VSL

PLEASE COMPLETE IN INK AND FORWARD TO THE PATENT ADMINISTRATOR

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



BEST AVAILABLE COPY